

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

CU-02 EUR-12 ARA-06 BIB-01 /086 W

----- 109318

R 061500Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7884

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, BC

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES

REF: USIA 8933 CIRCULAR

FOLLOWING IS RESPONSIVE TO QUESTION REFTEL.

PART I. COMMUNIST COUNTRY ACTIVITIES AND THEMES:

1. THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCREASE IN COMMUNIST INFORMATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN BOTSWANA. THIS POST HAS NO CERP 002 REQUIREMENT.

2.

A. NO INCREASE

B. THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN FILM SHOWINGS BY THE RESIDENT PRC EMBASSY SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT ABOUT A YEAR AGO. ALSO THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE INCREASED THEIR FILM SHOWING EFFORT DURING THEIR INFREQUENT VISITS TO BOTSWANA.

C. VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT EXCEPT FOR RARE NCNA ATTRIBUTION IN THE LOCAL PRESS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.

D. NONE

E. NORTH KOREANS AND CHINESE BOTH ARE ACTIVELY DISSEMINATING

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THEIR PUBLICATIONS.

F. NO EXHIBITS.

G. NO SIGNIFICANT ONES TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.

H. NO CULTURAL CENTERS.

I. THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE A TAI KWANG DO INSTRUCTION TEAM OF THREE MEN WORKING AT THE POLICE TRAINING CENTER. THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR FIRST INSTRUCTION PROGRAM AND ARE PREPARING TO EMBARK ON A SECOND PHASE OF INSTRUCTOR TRAINING.

J. THE PRESIDENT'S ELDEST SON, IAN KHAMA, HAS TOLD US THAT HE HAS RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO VISIT NORTH KOREA. THIS MAY TAKE PLACE ABOUT MAY OR JUNE 1977.

3. NORTH KOREANS ARE WORKING TO ASSURE SUPPORT PARTICULARLY OF THE KOREAN ISSUE AT THE UN BY GAINING BROADER PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF NORTH KOREA ITSELF AND OF ITS POSITIONS. THE CHINESE HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN WORKING TO IMPROVE GENERAL PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE RATHER THAN DEVELOP ANY PARTICULAR THEMES OR ISSUES.

4. SOVIETS DO NOT YET HAVE RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSION BUT THEIR INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING SUCH A MISSION INCREASED FOLLOWING THE CHICOM ACCREDITATION OF A RESIDENT AMBASSADOR ABOUT A YEAR AGO. WE MAY LEARN MORE ABOUT SINO/SOVIET RIVALRY AND OBJECTIVES WHEN, AS EXPECTED, SOVIETS ESTABLISH RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN GABORONE.

PART II. IMPACT ON AFRICANS

1. IN LIGHT OF ANGOLA EVENTS THE IMPACT OF INCREASED COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN BOTSWANA HAS BEEN MIXED. AMONG THE LEADERSHIP FROM THE PRESIDENT ON DOWN THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT COMMUNIST INTENTIONS. BOTSWANA WAS ONE OF THE LAST COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA IN ANGOLA, FOR INSTANCE, AND WAS AMONG THOSE CONSISTENTLY CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES. HOWEVER, AMONG THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S STAFF THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNIST SUPPORT OF ONE MINORITY BLACK GROUP AGAINST OTHER BLACK GROUPS AS IN ANGOLA AND CUBAN SUPPORT FOR BLACK LIBERATION FIGHTERS AGAINST THE WHITE RHODESIAN REGIME. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE DANGER OF FURTHER COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THEY WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH SUPPORT BY FREEDOM FIGHTERS BECAUSE, IN THEIR VIEW, MINORITY RULE AND RACIAL OPPRESSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE THE NUMBER ONE ENEMIES AND NOT THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS. AMONG THE YOUNGER/STUDENT POPULATION IN PARTICULAR THERE IS SOME ADMIRATION FOR CUBAN SUCCESS IN ANGOLA AND WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE REGION IF IT WILL HELP END RACIAL OPPRESSION. ALL IMPORTANT TARGET GROUPS BELIEVE THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA HAS FORCED THE U.S. TO FOCUS MORE ATTENTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND MANY HOPE U.S. WILL USE ITS POWER AND INFLUENCE TO STEP UP THE PACE OF CHANGE

WHICH WOULD ALSO IMPROVE BLACK AFRICA'S PERCEPTION OF THE UNITED STATES ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.

2. COMMUNIST INFLUENCE HAS NOT INCREASED PER SE OVER THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA. HOWEVER, PARTLY AS A RESULT OF OAU INFLUENCES AND PARTLY AS A RESULT OF COMMUNIST OSTENSIBLE RESPONSIVENESS TO BLACK CONCERNS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA HAS BEEN WILLING TO CONSIDER "THIRD WORLD" POSITIONS PARTICULARLY IN THE OAU FORA. KOREA IS A CASE IN POINT.

3. AS INDICATED ABOVE, EVENTS IN ANGOLA HAVE TENDED TO STRENGTHEN PRO-SOVIET FEELING AT LEAST AMONG THE BOTSWANA STUDENT POPULATION. A SPECIFIC EXAPPLE IS: A STUDENT AT THE PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOL RECENTLY TOLD AND EMBOFF THAT BECAUSE OF THE EVENTS IN ANGOLA THE MALE STUDENTS ARE "ON A PRO-SOVIET KICK".

4. THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA WAS AMONG THE MOST PERSISTENT IN ITS OPPOSITION TO "ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION" IN ANGOLA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, COMMUNISM, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GABORO00625
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760133-0025
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760494/aaaadcfx.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES
TAGS: PROP, AFSP, BC
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006